

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN MEMORY OF NAOMI GRAY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, with deep sadness, I rise to pay my respects to one of San Francisco's most beloved and admired community leaders. Naomi Thomas Gray died peacefully on December 29 at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco after a lifetime of service to our City and our Nation.

Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Naomi earned a Master of Science Degree in Social Services at Indiana University. She moved to New York to work for Planned Parenthood as a field organizer, quickly rising to Vice President for Field Services. For two decades, she crisscrossed America developing community education and organizing programs for Planned Parenthood. She lived among migrant workers where she taught family planning. She forged links with black communities in the rural South by winning over Baptist preachers. She served as a consultant to family planning programs around the globe.

Upon retirement in 1972, she turned her knowledge and might to San Francisco, where she became a champion of the African American and health communities.

Naomi served as a consultant to numerous family planning and health organizations. She founded and served two terms on San Francisco's Health Commission, where she worked to increase access to health care for our City's most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents and she strengthened the affirmative action programs at the San Francisco Department of Health. She warned of the danger of HIV/AIDS to the black community and founded the Black Coalition on AIDS and the African American AIDS Leadership Group.

She was an intrepid champion of the African American community. As founder and president of the Institute for Urban Affairs, she focused on issues of concern to African American children and families. As Executive Director of the Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency, she advocated for and mentored children in the foster care system. She was President of the Black Leadership Forum, member of the Black Chamber of Commerce, and Chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Public Housing and the Mayor's Task Force on Children, Youth and Their Families.

An advocate for excellence in education, Naomi Gray founded the Twenty-First Century Academic School and co-founded the African American Education Leadership Group.

She received awards and commendations too numerous to list. For 30 years, I have been blessed with her support, advice, and friendship. It is an honor to stand before the House to celebrate the life of San Francisco's beloved Naomi Gray.

I hope it is a comfort to her loving nieces, nephews, and other extended family that so many people are mourning her loss and praying for them at this time.

HONORING CHRISTY WALSH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to remember and honor Christy Walsh. Christy was Woodland Middle School counselor in Franklin, TN. After a life dedicated to helping mold the youth of America and a valiant 4-year battle with cancer, Christy finally has peace and rest.

We all know how important counselors and educational officials are to our communities. In our school systems throughout America, counselors are there for our children, to guide them, advise them through their education and life choices, and to celebrate with them in good times and comfort them in the bad. Christy was innovative, energetic, and dedicated to our kids and we can't thank her enough for that.

Christy served as a Students Taking a Right Stand (STAR) counselor where she led a movement to help guide students away from drug abuse and held support groups for children with social issues such as grief and anger. Her dedication to STAR has had a tremendous positive impact on these students and left a ray of hope for the children she influenced.

I invite my colleagues to, again, join me in extending our condolences to her son Brennan and the entire Walsh family and keep them in our thoughts and prayers. May Christy and her work live on in the hearts of her family, friends and the children that she helped throughout her life.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ARTHUR F. WESTFALL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Arthur F. Westfall, whose personal service to the Valley View community in Ohio is a shining example of the commitment and devotion that holds this great country together. Arthur's life was marked by his dedication to country, community, and family.

Arthur graduated from Cuyahoga Heights High School and worked as a homebuilder as a young man, before he was elected mayor in

1971—a position he held for almost 30 years before he retired in 1999, along with being a public insurance adjuster. During these years, his work and commitment as a mayor helped Valley View prosper and become one of the main economic power centers in Northeast Ohio.

Throughout his life Arthur was enthusiastic about and devoted to the citizens of his community. As a public insurance adjuster, he did appraisals that helped claimants receive compensation from insurance companies following catastrophes. And, as a devoted citizen and mayor, Arthur studied law enforcement and criminology at Case Western Reserve University to inform development of a strong police department.

Arthur also helped to improve infrastructure for the citizens of Valley View by building capacity in the water supply, developing a transportation program, as well as a number of benefits for the elderly, things that were not available for the small farmland village back in 1971.

Arthur's legacy continues through his wife, Helen; three children, Sharon White, Randall and Lance; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the memory of Arthur F. Westfall as a loving community leader. Arthur's lifelong commitment to both community and family is a great example of how one man can dedicate his life to helping others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 19, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, on January 9 and 10, 2007, I was absent and missed rollcall votes 12–18. For the record, had I been present on January 9, I would have voted: rollcall vote 12—"yea"; rollcall vote 13—"no"; rollcall vote 14—"yea"; and rollcall vote 15—"yea".

Further, had I been present on January 10, I would have voted: rollcall vote 16—"no"; rollcall vote 17—"no"; and rollcall vote 18—"yea."

I support an increase in the minimum wage. The last time the minimum wage was increased was 10 years ago and workers deserve to have the minimum wage increased to \$7.25.

I am pleased the House of Representatives passed the initial version of H.R. 2 and look forward to voting on its final passage in the coming weeks.

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